

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14 remain pending in the present application. Claim 13 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 7, 9, 10 and 14 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashiba (U.S. Pat. No. 5,248,014). Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 13 and Claim 13 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicant believes Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2-6, 11 and 12, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM 14

The original application was filed with Claims 1-14 and not Claims 1-13 as indicated in the Office Action mailed April 6, 2004. Claim 14 was on page 16 of the original application. If the Examiner is not able to locate Claim 14 of the present application, Applicant requests the entry of Claim 14 in its amended form as a new claim.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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